



GUYJEST



GUYANA JESUIT NEWS BULLETIN, DECEMBER 2006.



***2007: marching towards 150 years of Jesuit presence in Guyana
!!!***

News and Announcements

Regional Superior's Programme

- **Trinidad 13-14 December**
- **Barbados 26-27 December**
- **UK 28 December -13 January**
- **Return to Guyana on 13 Jan 2007**

Advent!

We are delighted to announce the arrival of **Fr Anil Tirkey SJ** and **Fr Amar Bage SJ** (from the Ranchi Province) who are coming to join the Guyana Region in a few weeks. They arrive in Georgetown on the evening of the 23rd December. Remember them in your prayers.

Visitors

We warmly welcome:

- **Jean Fabio** and **Erlando Damiao**, two Brazilian Scholastics who will be with us in Georgetown in December and January.
- **Nick Austin**, the oils of ordination still reasonably fresh on his hands, comes for a short visit 2nd-12th January

Transfers

1. **Malcolm Rodrigues** will be leaving Trinidad on Boxing Day and going to England. He will be permanently to Guyana in mid-January and will be resident in Brickdam.
2. After a short time in Aishalton **Paulose Vellacada** has now moved permanently to Kurukabaru.
3. Dermot has appointed **Louduraj** as Acting Superior of the community in Berbice.
4. **Kuruvila Cherian** has moved from Berbice and is en route for St Ignatius at Lethem. Dermot has appointed Kuru as Acting Superior of the Interior.

Warm wishes for Christmas and New Year to all the readers of GUYJEST.

**P R O V I N C E
A S S E M B L Y**
*Starts on the evening of
28 December 2006*

Front Page Photographs

Top: Conference of Provincials of Latin America.
Bottom: Amerindian Cultural dance on Fr Britt-Compton's Jubilee, Diaconate ordination in London and Fr Britt opens the new Church at Aishalton.

News from the Curia, Rome

* *Fr. General has appointed:*

Fr. Claudio Barriga (Chile) the new Delegate Director of the Apostleship of Prayer. He takes office in May 2007.

Fr. Peter Balleis, (Germany) International Director of the Jesuit Refugee Service. He will take office on Nov. 1, 2007.

- ❖ The office dealing with the causes for the canonization of Jesuits and the liturgical books of the Society, announces that the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments has authorized a new edition of the Missal and the liturgy of the hours. Initially these will only be in Italian. The previous edition dates from 1975.

- ❖ The first Jesuit Conference on Adult and Distance-learning has taken place from November 1 to 3. They were sponsored by the Secretariats for Education and Communication in Rome, in collaboration with the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in the United States and Regis University in Denver, Colorado.
- ❖ MOZAMBIQUE : The funeral of **Father Waldyr dos Santos** and the lay volunteer **Idalina Neto**, killed in the Mission House of Fonte Boa-Angonia (Mozambique) by a group of robbers in the early hours of November 6, was attended by more of 3,000 people. As **Father Carlos G. Salomão**, Regional Superior of Mozambique, describes in a recent report, Father dos Santos was killed with a shot to his heart while Idalina Neto met his death by strangulation.

News from Joe Chira

Fr. Joe Chira on a long leave sends his greetings for a joyous Christmas and a happy New Year to all the members of the region. Staying at Bellarmine Jesuit Community at Tacoma, Washington State he was able to make his annual retreat from 24th November to 2nd of December. He hopes to be back in Guyana by the middle of January, 2007.

Glimpses of the life of a Dean



I will be telling my students next semester that Metaphysics is the study of what kinds of entity “might” exist. To my surprise the life of a Dean has uncovered a peculiar metaphysical conundrum, namely, ‘do you exist if you are not on BANNER?’

What is BANNER I hear you ask. It is the recently introduced computer system on which the university holds all data relating to students, courses, marks, etc. Theoretically loading data onto BANNER is straightforward, in practice, even after several attempts to load information, which appear successful, you find that clerical staff can’t respond to simple queries because “you’re not on the system”. The systems protocols can’t accept certain long standing practices and simply erase them. I would estimate I spend about four working hours per week just dealing with BANNER problems. It’s a new experience of ‘marginalisation’ for me – and in a very real way if you are not on BANNER you don’t exist – its quite an strong allegory therefore for who decides who exists in our increasingly information based cultures. Perhaps its no surprise then that the whereabouts of the BANNER office is not made known readily.

On a more positive note, I finished teaching a pilot course entitled Gender and Philosophy yesterday. I co-taught the course with Prof. Patricia Mohammed, Director of the Centre for Gender and Development Studies in Mona. Throughout the course I was very aware of the “absence” of faith perspectives (Christian, Hindu, Muslim). This was not due to any overt hostility, or overriding secularist perspective, in fact many of the students openly expressed their religious beliefs – but there is no body of research writings that articulates the religious experience of women and men – there appears to be complete silence, at an academic level, on the part of people of faith on the issue of gender. No surprise then that when Governments turn to Universities to help them formulate Gender Policies that an informed faith perspective is absent. Next semester Prof Mohammed and myself are piloting a second course Gender and Caribbean Philosophy. It will be interesting to see whether there is room in that discourse for the articulation of faith perspectives on the issues we will be exploring. I suspect the answer will be no, for the same reason, the lack of accessible and credible material that articulates the faith experience of women and men. Once again the allegorical significance of the experience is clear to me, only this time it seems that we are absenting ourselves, rather than being disappeared by the systems protocols.

Eddy Bermingham

News from CPAL



CONFERENCE OF PROVINCIALS OF LATIN AMERICA (CPAL) 14th ASSEMBLY – COLUMBIA

I had participated in meetings of both the North and South Assistances from 1986 – 92, but this meeting of the post-Loyola 2000 formation of CPAL was qualitatively different. Provincials not only reported how each Province was realizing the commitments of CPAL but also there were now many inter-provinces projects and programmes for which all were committed and the Assembly reflected a sense of responsibility and solidarity which was very tangible.

16 Provincials and the Major Superiors of Cuba, Puerto Rico, Amazonia, Mato Grosso, and a Delegate from Guyana met for this 14th Assembly in the environmentally beautiful surroundings of the Retreat House of St. Peter Claver located about an hour from Bogota.

After the normal formalities and welcome, the Assembly was addressed by Fr. Ignatius Madera S.D.S, President of CLAR(Conference of Religious of L.A), on the issues and challenges facing the religious communities today in Latin America. He appealed for support for the forthcoming Assembly of the Latin American Bishops next year, which Assembly can lead to a renewal of the church in Latin America. An examination and exchanges followed on the poverty, violence, corruption, and the “popularism” of governments and parties in many of the countries of the continent. We had a report on the work of Fe y Alegria on its 50th year of its foundation, and its possible

expansion beyond Latin America into Africa. A report was also presented on the Society, the

Church and life in Cuba, and the possible evolution of the island given its present configuration. The Assembly also received reports from the Apostolic Sectors, and analysed the various common projects; this work was carried out by breaking the group into 4 Commissions: Mission, Institute, Laity and Church, and Organisation. We spent a lot of time in plenary sessions to decide on the various proposals coming out of these four Commissions and how best to concretely realise them with the right personnel and other supports. The participants were very conscious that we were meeting on the eve of the 35th Gen. Congregation and its possible impact on the mission of the Society in Latin America. But it was not all work; on Thursday 9 November we visited a Centre of Investigation and Popular Education (CINEP) in Bogotá and saw the commitment of our Jesuit brothers in Columbia to work for peace in the country through the Programme for Peace. The participation of the laity in this programme is very strong and speaks wonders for the collaboration of “ours” with the lay people. The visit concluded with a presentation of folk music and dance, and a wonderful supper to cap it all. We all received from the host Province, Columbia, a precious gift of the Ignatian Exercises for Everyday Life (19th Annotation) compiled in celebration of the Jubilee Year which closes on 3 December. Next Assembly will be held in June 2007 in Argentina. I thank God for these opportunities of sharing in these Assemblies and to know that we here in Guyana are already enjoying the fruits of inter-provincial collaboration from India and Latin America.

Malcolm Rodrigues

(p.s. In future issues of Guyjest I shall share details of some of the matters discussed and which has a bearing on our work here.)

News from Aishalton

Fr. Britt-Compton completed 70 years in the Society of Jesus on 7th October. For the last 25 years he has been working with the Wapshiana people in the deep south in Region 9. He is 87 years old now and is staying permanently in Aishalton.

On November 19th, Bishop Francis Alleyne blessed the new church in Aishalton and then the jubilarian Fr. Britt cut the ribbon to enter the new church and a joint celebration of the two occasions followed.

The Bishop also visited the southern Rupununi for confirmations and blessings of the new churches: On 18th November, Bishop Francis confirmed 34 young people in Sawariwau village.

On the same day, he blessed the new church in Katoonarib. Though the catholic community in Kaonarib is very small, over a period of 4 years, the community worked together to build this church through their own efforts.

Meeting of the frontier dioceses

From the 20th to the 23rd of November, church representatives from Brazil, Guyana and Venezuela were gathered in Boa Vista in Brazil for the 1st meeting of the Frontier dioceses. The bishops from the three different countries were present: Bishop Roque Paloschi from Roraima in Brazil, Bishop Francis Alleyne from Guyana and Bishop Jesus Alfonso Guerrero from Caroni in Venezuela. Along with the bishops were present priests, religious, lay church leaders and Amerindians from the three countries. Guyana was represented by Bishop Francis Alleyne, Frs. Paul Martin, Joaquim D'Mello, Joseph Puli, Bro. Jandir, lay church leaders Brenda from

Sawariwau and Theresa Mansigh from St. Ignatius.

The aim of the meeting was to look at the challenges facing these three dioceses because they share common borders. The meeting looked at some of the possible ways in which these three dioceses could collaborate. The economic, social, and catechetical problems were given a lot of importance. The first day, the participants from each country exposed the Church reality in its different aspects. The second day, the participants worked in small groups to find common problems, and how to solve these problems.

It was the first official meeting that brought together people from the three countries to discuss the problems which are facing our work near the borders. The next meeting will be in 2008.

It was a very rich experience because we learnt more about the Church reality in the other countries and also it helped us to realize that we share a lot of problems, opportunities and rich heritage.

Bro. Jandir was one of the organizers of this meeting. He had put in a lot of effort in communicating with the English speaking participants.

Jandir Groth and Joseph Puli

Pray for our sick

Mike Lewis tells us from SA that Kevin McElhatton is back at Oakford Priory recovering from the operation. Kevin thanks everyone for their concern and prayers. If everything goes according to plan he will have a period of healing from the surgical procedure, then a period of either chemo or radium therapy, followed by an operation to remove the tumour which should by that time have shrunk.

BirthdayNew born Chicks ..!!!

December & January Babies.....

DECEMBER

05 Bwanali George
09 Barrow Robert
12 Lourduraj Arockiasamy
31 Kasirori Sylvester

JANUARY

05 Veerasammy Godfrey
10 Britt-Compton Peter
16 Medino Abraham

MEMORY LANE

1962, Brickdam Presbytery, Guyana



Row 4 (back) Mr. B. Perrett, Fr. A. Morrison, Fr. M. Heymann-Barker.
Row 3 Fr. T. Lynch, Fr. S. Peterson, Fr. B. Doran, Fr. G. Cooney,
Fr. B. Brown, Fr. M. Feany.
Row 2 Fr. S. Maxwell, Mr. L. Humphrey, Fr. J. Harrison,
Fr. R. Chadwick, Fr. G. Serle, Fr. A. Gill, Mr. R. Fouchon,
Fr. S. McKenna, Fr. S. Payne, Fr. S. Beese,
Mr. S. Crisp.
Row 1 (seated) Fr. F. Sherrinck (Minister), Fr. A. Gordon (Superior),
V. Rev. Fr. T. Byrne (Assistant), Fr. P. McCaffray (Vic. Gen.),
Fr. J. Hepkine (College Principal).
Brickdam Presbytery: 14th January, 1962: Community and guests on
the occasion of Very Reverend Father Assistant's visit to British
Guiana (14th-16th January, 1962).

Tales of the Unexpected

A little girl was in church with her mother when she started feeling ill.

"Mommy," she said, "can we leave now?"

"No," her mother replied.

"Well, I think I have to throw up!" exclaimed the girl.

"Then go out the main door and around to the

garden and throw up behind a bush," said her mother.

After about sixty seconds, the little girl returned to her seat. "Did you throw up?" her mother asked.

"Yes," the little girl replied.

"How could you have gone all the way out into the garden and returned so quickly?" her mother asked.

"I didn't have to go out of the church, Mommy. They have a box next to the main door that says, 'For the Sick.'"

Departures...



After many years wonderful service in Guyana, **Derrick Maitland** is packing up his kit-bag and heading to the UK. He plans to say goodbye to Springlands on Boxing Day and travel to Georgetown for a week before going to Barbados for the month of January. Derrick will be one of the founder members of the new community in Boscombe, on the south coast of England. It is hoped that once he has had some months to rest, recuperate and re-orientate himself, he will be able to return for a holiday to Guyana and thus bid a more leisurely 'farewell!.

